

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the subject application. In response to the Office Action mailed 11/5/04, Applicant is filing this response. Claims 1, 2, 4-11, 13, 14, 18-22, 25-27, 31-35, 37, 38, 40-47, 49, 50, 54-58, 61 and 62 are still pending.

In the subject Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 1-62 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Trieu et al. (U.S. Patent 6,237,055; Trieu). The Examiner states that Trieu discloses the invention as recited in the rejected claims.

Applicant submits that Trieu discloses an arbiter which allows or delays access to a bridge that bridges two buses by victim agents coupled to one of the buses to avoid livelock (Figure 2 and col. 3, lines 29-49). The amended claims of the subject application claim embodiments of the invention in which a plurality of agents are coupled on a bus. An agent (first agent) generates a signal to the other agents on the bus to indicate if the first agent is available to participate in subsequent transactions on the bus with the other agents. In a transaction from a second agent targeting the first agent, the second agent identifies the address of the transaction to be related to the first agent and in response, the second agent determines if the first agent is available by determining the state of the signal from the first agent. Thus, the signal from the first agent informs the other agents on the bus that the first agent is not available.

In a further recitation of embodiments of the invention, the address of the transaction is decoded and logically operated with the signal from the first agent to generate a control signal to allow or not allow the transaction (claim 22, 27 and 58).

Applicant submits that Trieu fails to teach the embodiments of the invention as now claimed in the amended claims and, therefore, requests the Examiner to withdraw the 35 U.S.C. §102(e) rejection.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to allow pending claims 1, 2, 4-11, 13, 14, 18-22, 25-27, 31-35, 37, 38, 40-47, 49, 50, 54-58, 61 and 62, as amended.

Furthermore, since this response is being submitted within the first extension period, Applicant is submitting a petition to respond in the first month of the extension period. An extension fee payment and statement is included with this submission. However, if there are any further fees due, please charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 50-2126.

Respectfully submitted,

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